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Tm

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of )  
Robert McCracken ) Group Art Unit: 3635  
Serial No. 09/336,207 )  
Filed: June 18, 1999 ) Examiner: Yvonne M. Horton  
For: SPANNING MEMBER WITH )  
CONVULUTED WEB, C-SHAPED )  
FLAGES, AND END PLATE )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA. 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

NOV 20 2003

**GROUP 3600**

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified patent application, kindly enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks relative to the continued examination of the patent application.

Amendments to the Claims start on page 2 of this response.

Remarks start on page 5 of this response.